

**MINUTES**  
**North Newton City Council – Regular Meeting**  
**March 11, 2013 – 7:00 P.M.**  
**North Newton City Hall**  
**North Newton Community Room**

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor Ron Braun called the meeting to order. Those present and constituting a quorum were:

**COUNCIL:** Gregg Dick, Jim Goering, Paul Harder, Jane Schmidt, Ron Ratzlaff

**STAFF:** John Torline, Danny Bisoni, Ray Classen, Greg Nye, Cindy Hiebert  
Pat Redding

**OTHERS:** Kurt Friesen, Allen Wedel, Darlene Dick, Marlin Lichti, Sid Fleming,  
Bill Koonce

**2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Minutes of the February 11, 2013, Regular Meeting were presented.

**MOTION:** Goering moved, Ratzlaff seconded, to approve the February 11, 2013 minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**3. Citizen Comments**

Darlene Dick from Bethel College Mennonite Church asked the Council for permission to put limited parking signs (parking limited to 4 hours) on the city street directly west of the church on both sides of the street. Bethel Mennonite Church and Bethel College would pay for the costs of the signs. Allen Wedel, Bethel College Vice-President for Financial Affairs, and Marlin Lichti, Bethel College Mennonite Church Facilities Committee Chair, both spoke in favor of the parking signs. Mayor Braun recommended that Torline and Classen research this issue and report back to the Council at the April meeting.

**4. Consider an Ordinance requiring Licenses for door to door sales in the City (known as the Green River Ordinance)**

**MOTION:** Goering moved, Harder seconded, to adopt the Green River Ordinance giving it Ordinance #568-13 with the following changes: Peddling shall be conducted only between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. and the wording in Section III regarding information requested would state "included but not limited to" so more information could be required if necessary. An amended motion was then made: **MOTION:** Ratzlaff moved, Schmidt seconded, to adopt

the Green River Ordinance with the above changes as well as requiring the citizens of North Newton to also get a license and pay the fee like citizens outside of North Newton. Motion carried unanimously.

**5. Consider the recommendation of the North Newton Community Foundation for a grant from the Sher Klassen Neufeld Endowment**

Councilman Goering reported that it is a provision of the Sher Klassen Neufeld Endowment Fund that the North Newton Community Foundation recommend awards to be given. The North Newton City Council then considers the recommendation. MOTION: Ratzlaff moved, Schmidt seconded, to contribute \$524.59 to support the Scholarship Fund for an Art Education Project being implemented by the Bethel Academy of the Performing Arts. Councilman Goering recused himself from voting since he is chairman of the North Newton Community Foundation. Motion carried unanimously.

**6. Executive Session**

MOTION: Harder moved, Dick seconded, to enter into an executive session for approximately 30 minutes to discuss personnel matters of non-elected officials. Motion carried unanimously.

At the expiration of said 30 minutes the Council returned back to regular session whereupon Mayor Braun noted that no decisions were made and no actions were taken.

MOTION: Dick moved, Goering seconded, to enter into a second executive session for approximately 15 minutes to discuss personnel matters of non-elected officials. Torline was also present at the executive session. Motion carried unanimously.

At the expiration of said 15 minutes the Council returned back to regular session whereupon Mayor Braun noted that no decisions were made and no actions were taken.

**7 Reports**

**a. Mayor/Council.** Mayor Braun suggested having a candidate forum where the five candidates for City Council can make statements and citizens can ask questions. The suggested date is March 26 at 7:00 in a place to be determined. Goering reported that the North Newton Community Foundation has an asset balance of approximately \$31,000 and will be giving out their first awards on March 25 at 5:30 in the City Community Room.

**b. Staff Update.** City Administrator Torline reported that he received a letter from the Equus Beds Groundwater Management District No. 2 approving our application to drill a well. Torline also stated the soccer goals have been

installed at Cottonwood Park and have been getting a lot of use. Bisoni's report was in the packet. Bisoni also reported that the work Layne is doing to fix well #1 is going well. There continues to be problems with the flow meter readings from the sewer lines but Eastech Flow Contols, Inc. continues to troubleshoot these issues. Classen's report was in the packet and he reported on March Municipal Court cases.

**c. Clerk/Treasurer.** Redding presented March Accounts Payable and February/March payroll for consideration.

MOTION: Dick moved, Harder seconded, to approve March accounts payable and miscellaneous bills in the amount of \$73,216.19, February/March payroll in the amount of \$16,628.16. Motion carried unanimously.

**8. Non-Agenda Items**

None presented.

**9. Adjournment**

There being no further business Mayor Ron Braun declared the meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Patricia Redding  
City Clerk

Ronald A. Braun  
Mayor

April 8, 2013  
Date Approved